

Amendment
Application No. 10/519,256
Attorney Docket No. 042959

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled in this Response. Claim 9 has been added in this Response.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamanaka (JP 09-141646).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of claim 2 except for the phrase “such as chemical polishing.” The phrase has not been incorporated into claim 1 in order to prevent the scope from being indefinite. MPEP 2173.05(d). Claim 2 was found to be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Thus, claim 1, as amended, should be allowed.

Newly added claim 9 depends on claim 1, which includes the limitations of claims 6 and 8. Thus, claim 9 should be allowed.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

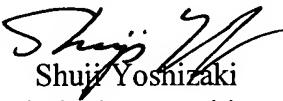
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If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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